The essential question asked by Gary Paulsen in The River is, “How should one behave in the face of overwhelming difficulty?” The answer that Paulsen gives is that to overcome an overwhelming difficulty, one should be brave, courage and not to give up. This will be proved by he did not give up when Derek got hit by lighting he was brave and courage’s during that experiment.  
  
  
  
Brian Robeson, the main character in Gary Paulsen’s The River, is exciting, brave, shocking, and a great survival.  
The main character trait of Brian Robeson is his brave. By living in the woods for a week and saving derrick from the lighting we mean with just two knife nothing else expert for stuff in the wood that they find. Brian shows his braveness on page 101 when he saved derrick from lighting.  
Etc.  
  
  
In the being there was a conflict in the middle there was the same conflict in the end there was a different conflict. In the being the conflict was they had to get out of the woods because derrick wanted to see him survive in the woods with just 2 knifes. So they went to the woods. In the woods a storm Derek got hit by lighting. Brian didn’t know until he woke up. When he looked at Derek he was still sleeping, but Brian thought and he was in a coma. The conflict at the end was that Brian had to go down the river to the trading post.

The problem-solving process that Brian uses to solve his new conflict is the thinking process. There are nine steps in the thinking or problem-solving process.

The first step in the thinking process involves making a observation or a having a perception. This means that a person senses an event. At this moment, the person who sensed the event does not know what it is. Thus, he or she naturally reflects or reflection what it is that he or she just heard or saw or felt or tasted or smelled, etc. Reflecting/ Wondering is the reflecting moment in the problem-solving method. Often, this leads the person to investigate further the event that was sensed or observed. If enough information is available, the person will name the event or problem the problem that he or she had just sensed. That is the third moment in the thinking process.  
Next comes the identifying step in this problem-solving process: Considering alterative or Options.  
That is the fourth moment in the thinking process/problem-solving process. Once the person has listed the possible alternatives, then a decision must be made as to which alternative or choice is most logical. The next step, the predicting step, in the process of making this decision is often what we mean when we use the word “thinking.” But really what most often happens here is that the person engages in a mental “what-if game.” Basically, this means that the person tries to make a guess of what in the future what would most likely happen if each choice, or selection, were selected. Based upon those predictions, the problem-solver to find a solution. That is the sixth moment in the thinking process.  
The next, and 7 step, involves the solution a plan of how to put the solution into action. After this, the problem-solver gathers text or information to use when the plan is done. That is the eighth step. Finally, in the ninth step, the problem-solver actually solving or does the solution.  
On page 66 of The River, we clearly see an example of the third step in the thinking process: identifying or naming the problem. Here, on page 66, we learn that Brian has a name for Derek’s problem. He says that Derek is in a coma. Shortly, thereafter, on page 67, Brian starts to feel angry at him for allowing himself to be talked into going back into the woods to teach survival skills to Derek. Brian starts to feel sorry for him. But then he stops himself, because he thinks, or hears himself acting babyish and immature. On page 67 he says, “Listen to me… If I were talking out loud, I’d be whining. Derek gets hit and I act like I’m the one getting messed up.” Derek stops himself from feeling sorry for him. And then he moves on to trying to solve the problem of saving Derek’s life.  
Brian clearly is wondering/reflecting and considering woods on page 67 when he thinks, “Could he stay here with Derek for a week or ten days and wait for them? Could he not stay? What choices did he have?” Brian is listing all of the different options that he has.  
At the end of this chapter, after Brian senses the smell of human waste; he identifies that Derek has “soiled” himself. Brian chooses a solution when he says, “It had to be done. He had to clean Derek, take care of him, take care of another human being.”  
So, Brian comes up with a plan to clean up Derek’s waste. We read on page 68 that the resources that Brian gathers are sticks and grass. Then he performs, or does, the solution when he carries Derek’s waste and buries it in a ground.  
The thinking process/problem-solving process continues. In chapter 13, on page 71, Brian is clearly reflecting or wondering when we read that “He spent the morning trying to remember what he knew” about comas. At the top of page 72, Brian makes a predation about how long he thinks Derek can survive. We read, “But Brian was sure Derek could not go that long without water…. Somewhere he’d heard or read or seen that the human body couldn’t go that long without water.” So, Brian makes a “small spoon like holder out of birch bark” and pours water down Derek’s throat. Here, Brian has used resources and has acted on his prediction. When he saw that Derek coughs up the water, Brian had another problem: Derek cannot drink.  
At this point, on page 73, Brian doesn’t know what to do. He throws down a stick, which bounces into Derek’s briefcase. When Brian sees the briefcase, “as if for the first time” he is making an observation. When Brian says, “What have you got in here?” he is wondering/Reflecting. When Brian opens up Derek’s briefcase, he finds the map of the wilderness area where they are. On the map, he found a river.  
Brian unfolds the map and he follows the flow of the river. He observes the words “Bannock trading Post,” on page 78.  
When we read that Brian thinks to himself, “There would be people there…. A trading post would have people” we know that he is making a risk. On page 79, we read that Brian calculates that the trading post is about 150 kilometers, or just under 100 miles. When Brian thinks to himself that he could leave Derek and go down the river and bring back help, he is choosing the options. But then, he predicts that wild animals might attack or eat Derek. Brian decides that he cannot leave Derek. Here, he is making a plan.  
At the very bottom of page 79, we read, “What if he took Derek with him?” Here, Brian is using “what-thinking”. Once again, this is the step of making a plan. On page 80, Brian makes numerous predictions: “If he stayed, Derek would die of thirst…. If he made the run…at least there was a chance.” Finally, Brian made a solution at the end of page 80 when we read: “He had no choice.”  
At the beginning of chapter 15, Brian calculates that to float down the river would take thirty-five or forty hours. On page 82, he chooses a alternative when we read, “He needed to build a raft.”  
Shortly after that, on page 82, Brian names or say a problem. The problem is not that he lacks wood, but that he lacks a tool to cut wood to build a raft. Luckily, Brian observes on page 83 that wood have felled trees, and the trees are the right size to make a raft. He thinks, “It’s like I hired them.” Here, Brian is making a plan to use the trees cut down by the beavers. In fact, we read in the next-to-last paragraph on page 84, “He had a plan…for what he was going to do.” On page 85, Brian actually makes the raft, or does his plan. He weaves together the large and small pieces of wood cut down by the beavers, and he cuts strips of wood from his jacket to hold the wood firmly in place.  
At the end of chapter 15, on page 87, Brian must decide if he, in fact, will act on his prediction of bring Derek down the river on the raft. So, Brian goes through a process that looks a little like a scientific experiment. He thinks, “… if there was the slightest, tiniest change in Derek…Brian would call off the trip and hope for the best.” When he looks into Derek’s eyes, measures his breathing and his heartbeat, pulse into his ear, and pokes Derek with his knife, Brian is acting out his experiment. But he is really making predations with his senses. When Derek does not react at all, Brian says, “We go.” Here, he is clearly making a guess.  
In chapter 16, the thinking process/problem-solving process continues. On pages 92 and 93, Brian slowly drags Derek down to the raft, which is in the river. He places Derek onto the raft. But just before he pushes off into the river, Brian has a sudden thought, “What if they came unexpectedly?” Here, Brian is both wondering/reflecting, considering options and making a prediction, because he is realizing that they might come to check on them suddenly. So, Brian goes right to the step of choosing a plan. He decides that he has to write a note to rescuers just in case they show up. Brian writes the note. He is acting or doing.  
And then, on pages 94 and 95, Brian performs one last “scientific” method. He tests the options to see if it is seaworthy, whether it will help both himself and Derek. Brian decided or does his experiment by climbing on the raft and by moving it back and forth. He thought that the raft will not tip over. Thus, Brian makes a final judgment to act on his solution and push off into the river.  
  
 In the book the river Brian had to raft down the river with derrick on the raft. During the rafting he had not slept in days he was just rafting. He rafted a long time a lot of days and nights. Brain had been rafting for a week and he had not slept he was getting tired on his way to bannock trading post.  
  
 The river wasn’t just a river with the current helping them it was a rapid with the current hitting them hard and pushing them back up the river. So brain had to push harder so the raft can go forward instead of backwards. Brain was pushing hard to make it to the raft make go fast enough so he can make it to the training post in time so derrick can live.  
  
 Four days later he is going on the raft and disaster strikes. He falls off the raft and the raft is speeding away from him.  He has to swim for miles to catch up to the raft and since Derek was in a comma he can’t stop the raft. When he was swimming the rapid was flowing so the water was splashing in his face.  
  Pushing him back so he can go fast and it would take up too much energy and he will just flow away and Derek will be gone forever.  The reason why the raft would not go to him.

Instead of going away from him is that it was downhill so gravity will win.  He ended up catching up to the raft but he was out of breath so it was harder to make it to the bannock trading post.

Brain had to use the thinking process in the book all the time to get out of the woods. He uses the thinking process when Derek was in the coma and he had to get him to the bannock trading post. Brian had to get Derek to drink so he tried putting water in his mouth with a funnel. After Derek choked he thought that he should not do that. At the end he got Derek help by using the thinking process.

This book is really good at teaching people about the thinking process. Before I read this I had no idea about the thinking process. When I finish reading I know everything about the thinking process. Now in the future when am in a problem I now to use the thinking process.